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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with the President of Russia (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Putin

Interpreter: Peter Afanasenko

Notetakers: Don Gentile, Bob Schubert, Jill
Sandler, Joel Ehrendreich

DATE, TIME July 6, 2001, 10:58 - 11:07 a.m., EDT
AND PLACE: Kennebunkport, Maine

The President: Yes. (U)

President Putin: Mr. President, I would like to greet you but I don't know what time it is. (U)

The President: It is 11:00 in the morning. (U)

President Putin: I would like to congratulate you on your birthday, Mr. President. (U)

The President: Thank you, thank you. (U)

President Putin: And I would also like to wish you all the personal well-being and success for the benefit of your country. I would also like to congratulate you on Independence Day. I'm still recalling our meeting in Ljubljana. I must say that I was quite satisfied and this event was met very positively by the general public in Russia. Now, we are awaiting the delegation of your Secretaries of Commerce and Finance here, and also Dr. Rice very much. I think that during their visit here we will develop all of the positive steps which were made during our meeting in Ljubljana. I have already made a decision on constituting two.

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2

groups, as we agreed, from the foreign ministry and defense ministry, to continue our talks on the basis of strategic stability arrangements. Also, I await with impatience the possibility of meeting you in Genoa and think this will be another good opportunity. Mr. President, this is all I wanted to say. I don't want to take too much of your time. This was just a call to congratulate you on your birthday. (S)

The President: Mr. President, first of all, from now on you should call me George, even though I'm one-day-older George. Secondly, I'm so honored to take your phone call, thank you. And thank you for your note on our Independence Day. I, too, felt our meeting was an excellent meeting. And many in my country were pleased to see two new leaders so willing to seek new ground. And I think many nervous people in Europe took a deep sigh of relief when they saw that you and I had established a warm relationship. Secondly, I do want to express my nation's and my personal condolences for the lives that were lost in Siberia. My thoughts are with the families of the victims. I told Evans and O'Neill and Condi Rice that they must work hard to build on the level of respect that we started. There's so much we can do when we work together. I do think we need to work harder on Iraq. I was disappointed we weren't able to reach an accord, and I hope Secretary Powell and Foreign Minister Ivanov can continue to discuss this. If we work together, we can find a smart sanctions plan that will benefit the people of Iraq and also make sure commercial interests in Russia are not disrupted. And finally, it seems, I hope that the cease-fire holds in the Balkans. I know you're very interested in that area. And Macedonia, this is another area where Ivanov and Secretary Powell need to continue a dialog. I'm really looking forward to our meeting in Italy. I know we can advance and continue to make history. And so, I want to thank you again for your kind phone call on my birthday. I'm with my family, and I'm looking forward to telling them that you were the first world leader to call me on my birthday. [REDACTED] b(6)

[REDACTED] b(6)
[REDACTED] b(6) So, thank you for calling, my friend. (S)

President Putin: Thank you so much, George. And all the best to you and your family. I will see you in Italy. (U)

The President: Yes sir. Your English is getting very good. (U)

President Putin: Thank you. Goodbye. (U)

The President: Thanks and goodbye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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